

Message Text

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62

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1881

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CNO WASHDC

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T JIDDA 5068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SA, US, BA

REF: A. JIDDA 5006 (NOTAL) B. JIDDA 4965 (NOTAL)
C. STATE 161678 (NOTAL)

1. IN A JULY 14 MEETING WITH SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCE SAUD AL FAISAL THE AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENT SAUDI ATTITUDE TOWARDS MIDEAST- FOR AND WHETHER THIS ISSUE WOULD FIGURE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GULF MINISTERS AT THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. PRINCE SAUD REPLIED THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS NOT PUSHING BAHRAIN ON THIS ISSUE. AS MATTER OF POLICY, HOWEVER, SAUDI ARABIA WANTS ALL OF THE GREAT POWERS OUT OF THE GULF. HE SAID THIS APPLIED EQUALLY TO THE SOVIETS IN IRAQ.

2. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IN OUR CONVERSATION WITH BAHRAIN CONCERNING RETENTION OF THE FORCE AND THE POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF THE STATIONING AGREEMENT AT SOME FUTURE DATE, NO MENTION HAS BEEN MADE OF THE REMOVAL OF THE SOVIET PRESENCE FROM IRAQ AS A RELATED DEVELOPMENT. SAUD SAID THAT THE SAG IS SERIOUSLY WORK-

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ING TO BRING ABOUT THE ELIMINATION OF THE SOVIET PRESENCE

IN IRAQ. IT HOPES, IN FACT, TO ASSIST IN THE REMOVAL OF THE SOVIETS FROM IRAQ IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS THEY HAD BEEN KICKED OUT OF EGYPT. WOULD THIS NOT, HE ASKED, BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR THE LOSS OF MIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN.

3. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT IT CERTAINLY WOULD BE A PLUS AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED TO SEE THE SOVIETS LEAVE IRAQ. HOWEVER, EVEN IF THEY WERE TO GO, THE SAUDIS MIGHT NONETHELESS DECIDE THAT IT WANTED THE U.S. TO REMAIN IN BAHRAIN. THE FORCE DOES NOT, AFTER ALL, POSE A SERIOUS MILITARY THREAT TO ANYONE BUT IT COULD BE VALUABLE FOR ITS DETERRENT EFFECT.

4. PRINCE SAUD ASKED WHAT THE U.S. WOULD LIKE SAUDI ARABIA TO DO IN REGARD TO MIDEASTFOR. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WE WOULD LIKE THE SAUDIS TO TELL THE GOB THAT THEY CONSIDER THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE FORCE IN BAHRAIN TO BE IN THE SAUDI AND BAHRAINI NATIONAL INTERESTS. SAUD INDICATED THAT THIS WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT.

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